

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Eighth Town Council of Highland
Monday, June 06, 2016**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Eighth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, June 06, 2016** at the time of 7:05 o'clock p.m.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Dan Vassar, Mark Herak, Steve Wagner, and Konnie Kuiper were present. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Also present: John M. Bach, Public Works Director; Sue Murovic, Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals; and Ed Dabrowski, IT Consultant (Contract); Pete Hojnicky, Metropolitan Police Chief; Pat Vassar, Assistant Police Chief; John M. Bach, Public Works Director; Ken Balon, Pension Secretary and Support Services Administrator; Sergeant Randy Stewart, F.O.P. President, were present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. *Discuss Police Pension proposals: (1) Whether to add \$3,000 to the basis of the Police Pension in order to provide an increase for the recent survivors. The effect will be to increase all 1925 Pensions and to increase the municipal (employers') contribution to INPRS for the 1977 Plan members in public safety.* The Police Chief indicated that he believed that he could support the increase in his budget, paying for the increase in the employer contribution for the 1977 Pension Plan that would ensue if the Special First Class Patrol Officer salary was increased by \$3,000, effective midyear. He further indicated that he could support the pay for existing raises due to longevity and also support the costs for an additional full-time clerk for 2016. There was no discussion about the effect upon future budgets.

The Clerk-Treasurer asked if the Town Council wished the ordinance prepared to amend the wage and salary ordinance to affect both the increase to the Special First Class Patrol Officer and the added full-time support services clerk. He was advised to proceed and ready it for the plenary meeting agenda for June 13.

Discuss Police Pension proposals: (2) Whether to change the survivors' pension from its current language providing \$33,200.31 annually (if the preceding is adopted, \$33,950.16 annually) to create a new class that would receive 100% of the pension benefit of the decedent member. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that pursuant to the suggestion at the last meeting, he had engaged the actuary firm and awaiting a report soon. There was no further discussion.

2. *Discuss the possibility of establishing a lifetime animal license.* The Town Council discussed the possibility of creating a lifetime animal license. This was suggested as a possible remedy to the problem of finding strays without a license rendering it very difficult to return the animal to its family. The Clerk-Treasurer provided a review of the license receipts from 2011 to 2015.

License fees in 2015:	\$7,120.00
License fees in 2014:	\$7,613.00
License fees in 2013:	\$7,801.00
License fees in 2012:	\$8,788.00
License fees in 2011:	\$9,261.00

The Clerk-Treasurer suggested that one impact of a lifetime license would be to further erode revenues. Further there could be a problem with transferring tags to

other animals creating an enforcement problem. It was noted that each year a different color and shape is employed in order to make it visually clear whether the license is current.

The Town Council, the Police Chief and the Clerk-Treasurer discussed the current Animal Code. It was noted that the current annual fee is only \$5.00. It was also noted that the code only required the license if the pet was off premises. The discussion included the merits of amending the code.

The feasibility of employing the Humane Society of the Calumet as part of the humane code enforcement was discussed. The Police Chief stated that the previous discussions did not work out. The matter would be revisited. The Chief would also review and research the approaches of the surrounding municipalities.

- Discuss the license tax surcharge and the wheel tax as authorized by the recent Indiana General Assembly for municipalities of 10,000 population or more. The Town Council discussed again the newly enacted license surtax and wheel tax and whether it should be enacted for Highland roads. Councilors Herak and Vassar expressed disfavor in adopting the tax. The discussion included an examination of the existing ways and means for financing roads. The Clerk-Treasurer also provided a summary report (below) regarding the tax, its purposes and an estimate of the potential receipts based upon adoption of the minimum taxes permitted and the maximum taxes permitted under the enabling law. The discussion included whether to simply hold a series of community meetings to discuss the tax and receive public feedback. There was no further discussion and no specific instruction regarding the disposition of the matter.

Wheel and Surtax

Supports Funding for Roads and would be deposited in a new Wheel Tax and Surtax Fund

	Permitted Range of Tax		
	minimum	maximum	
Surtax	\$ 7.50	\$ 25.00	passenger vehicles, motorcycles, and trucks with declared gross weight of not exceeding 11,000 lbs.
Wheel Tax	\$ 5.00	\$ 40.00	buses, recreational vehicles, trailers, semi trailers, tractors, trucks.

A unit must adopt both not just one or the other.

Municipal Surtax Fund

		Surtax Projections		
		Range potential	Range potential	
Adjusted Registered vehicles in 2007	18,603	\$139,522.50	\$ 465,075.00	Surtax
Adjusted Registered vehicles in 2008	18,803	\$141,021.00	\$ 470,070.00	Surtax
	Average	\$140,271.75	\$ 467,572.50	

Municipal Wheel Tax Fund

		Wheel Tax		
		Range potential	Range potential	
Adjusted Registered vehicles in 2007	2,067	\$ 10,335.00	\$ 82,680.00	Wheel Tax
Adjusted Registered vehicles in 2008	2,089	\$ 10,446.00	\$ 83,568.00	Wheel Tax
	Average	\$ 10,390.50	\$ 83,124.00	

New Law effective July 1.

Requires a transportation improvement plan.

Adjusted means that for the real count assume 90% are surtax vehicles and 10% are wheel tax vehicles

TOTALS:	\$150,662.25	\$ 550,696.50
	Miles	Miles
	0.94	3.44

Municipal Surtax Fund

To construct, reconstruct, repair or maintain streets and roads under the adopting municipality's jurisdiction or for the county, city's or town's contribution to obtain a grant from the local road and bridge matching grant fund under IC 8-23-30

Municipal Wheel Tax Fund

To construct, reconstruct, repair or maintain streets and roads under the adopting municipality's jurisdiction or for the county, city's or town's contribution to obtain a grant from the local road and bridge matching grant fund under IC 8-23-30 or as a contribution to an authority established under IC 36-7-23.

Other Facts of Note

- Under the law, both taxes must be adopted.
- Each tax if adopted cannot be lower than the minimum amount stated for the range. It cannot be higher than the maximum stated as well.
- Each tax can be adopted at minimum or maximum or any amount in between the range.
- It must be adopted before July 1 of any year to be effective for collection beginning in January following.
- The tax can be modified or repealed in the same manner, as long as it is adopted before July 1st of the year in which the modification or repeal is desired.

- The matching program is presently set to be in place at least through 2018.
- The legislature is funding the first year of funding using some income tax surplus.
- In successive years, one cent of the existing sales tax collected on gasoline is dedicated to the Matching Grant Fund.
- Under current law, the only matching local source that will be eligible is the special one-time local income tax distributions, Rainy Day Funds, which are not recurrent, and the proceeds from the license surtax and wheel tax.

(Highland Civil received \$517,034.78. 75% percent was deposited to a Special LOIT Distribution Fund - \$387,776.08 and the rest was deposited to the Rainy Day Fund as required by law.)

4. The Town Council and the Metropolitan Police Chief discussed the possible acquisition of speed monitoring signs and a special license plate reader, which scans the tags of multiple vehicles while it is in a roving vehicle, running checks from the relevant data bases.

There being no further business necessary or desired to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council of **Monday, June 06, 2016**, was adjourned at 8:00 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO
Clerk-Treasurer